

Applicant Name Black Eagle Water and Sewer District
Project Name Water System Improvements Project

Project Abstract

The Black Eagle Water and Sewer District owns and maintains the water distribution system in Black Eagle. The district's water mains include many blocks of original cast iron piping that occasionally break due to corrosion and the brittleness of the pipe. These water main breaks lead to associated health and safety problems.

The main road (Smelter Avenue) through Black Eagle is programmed for reconstruction by the Montana Department of Transportation (DOT) in 2010. The water mains in the reconstruction area are the oldest cast iron mains in the water system. These mains have historically been brittle and broken due to nearby construction activity. These mains must be replaced before the highway reconstruction is finished to minimize future possible damage to the reconstructed roadway.

The system has several problems including:

- Impending roadway reconstruction;
- Failing mains due to age and pipe material;
- Below standard valving and looping;
- Undersized mains; and
- Galvanized steel and possibly lead service lines.

As a result of these problems, Black Eagle needs to replace numerous blocks of its water system to meet modern construction standards. This Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) provides a detailed evaluation of the water system and proposes solutions for the various deficiencies.

The Black Eagle Water and Sewer District will fund many of the improvements from its financial reserves. Because the citizens pay more for water and sewer service than the Montana Department of Commerce (DOC) target rate for communities with their income level, the district is also requesting funding assistance from the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) and the Renewable Resources Grant and Loan Program (RRGL) to complete the necessary improvements.